

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 08392 01 OF 02 282020Z

63

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIEP-03 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 RSC-01 OIC-04 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 FEA-02 CG-00

DOT-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

AECE-00 DRC-01 /280 W
----- 086927

O 281929Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5593

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 800

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 8392

FROM US DEL LOS

FOR IPS AND IBS

FOR D/LOS AND S/P JOHN KING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR
STEVENSON AUGUST 28.

1. AMBASSADOR STEVENSON WILL RELEASE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
AT Q AND A SESSION WITH PRESS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 AT 2:30 PM.
USIS WILL TAPE PRESS CONFERENCE. LOS DEL WOULD APPRECIATE
IT IF USIA WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO DEPT. (ESKIN, D/LOS) COPY
OF EXCERPTS OF Q AND A BEING TRANSMITTED BY TELEX TO USIA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 08392 01 OF 02 282020Z

BY IPS CORRESPONDENT HUGH MUIR. TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF REPORTS I WILL BE MAKING IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, INCLUDING REPORTS TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THIS SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE AT THE OUTSET THAT WHILE THE RESULTS OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT ALL WE HOPED FOR NEITHER IS THERE ANY CAUSE FOR BILLING THE CONFERENCE A FAILURE.

I SAID IN MY FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE HERE ON JUNE 20 THAT INNER QUOTE GREAT ISSUES, INVOLVING THE INTERESTS OF SO MANY STATES, ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT EASILY RESOLVED. END INNER QUOTE THIS NOT TO SAY THAT THEY CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE TIME FRAMEWORK ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. THAT TIME FRAMEWORK FOR COMPLETION OF A TREATY IN 1975 IS, AS YOU KNOW, OF SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE IN THIS NEGOTIATION. NOT ONLY THE U.S., BUT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE UNDER DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES TO TAKE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF FORECLOSING MANY AVENUES OF NEGOTIATION WHICH HAVE OPENED UP THIS SESSION.

WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO HERE IS TO ESTABLISH THE GOALS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LARGE PART OF THE WORLD FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THIS WOULD NOT BE EASY WERE WE ABLE TO FORESEE ALL THE FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF MAN'S FUTURE IN THE SEAS. IT IS MORE DIFFICULT WHEN IN LARGE MEASURE WE MUST ACT ON IMPERFECT KNOWLEDGE AND IN RELIANCE ON OUR GENERAL EXPERIENCE THAT A SYSTEM OF LEGAL ORDER IS A PREFERABLE APPROACH TO PEACEFUL ACCOMMODATION IN THE SEAS.

PERHAPS A MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF THIS SESSION, AND ONE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED, HAS BEEN THE AGREEMENT OF ALMOST ALL NATIONS REPRESENTED HERE THAT THE INTERESTS OF ALL WILL BE BEST SERVED BY AN ACCEPTABLE AND TIMELY TREATY. TO THAT END, THE CONFERENCE HAS SCHEDULED NOT ONLY THE NEXT SESSION IN THE SPRING IN GENEVA, BUT A RETURN TO CARACAS FOR THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS TIMETABLE.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SESSION ARE CONSIDERABLE. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE VAST ARRAY OF LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES AND PROPOSALS WITHIN THE MANDATE OF COMMITTEE II DEALING WITH TERRITORIAL SEA, STRAITS, AND THE ECONOMIC ZONE WAS ORGANIZED BY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 08392 01 OF 02 282020Z

THE COMMITTEE INTO A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF INFORMAL WORKING PAPERS REFLECTING MAIN TRENDS ON EACH PRECISE ISSUE. A LARGE NUMBER OF FORMAL PROPOSALS WERE INTRODUCED AS A BASIS FOR INSERTIONS IN THESE MAIN TRENDS PAPERS. ALL STATES CAN NOW FOCUS ON EACH ISSUE, AND THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS, WITH RELATIVE EASE. A SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
B) THE TRANSITION FROM A SEABED COMMITTEE OF ABOUT 90

TO A CONFERENCE OF ALMOST 150 WAS ACHIEVED WITHOUT MAJOR
NEW STUMBLING BLOCKS AND MINIMUM OF DELAY.

C) THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY CLEARLY DESIRES A TREATY IN
THE NEAR FUTURE. AGREEMENT ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE IS CLEAR
EVIDENCE OF THIS DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A WIDELY-ACCEPTABLE
TREATY. THE TONE OF THE MEETING WAS MODERATE AND SERIOUS.
THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED A RECOMMENDED 1975 WORK SCHEDULE
DELIBERATELY DEvised TO STIMULATE AGREEMENT.

D) THE INCLUSION IN THE TREATY OF A 12-MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA AND A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WAS ALL BUT FORMALLY AGREED,
SUBJECT OF COURSE TO ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES,
INCLUDING STRAITS. ACCORDINGLY, EXPANDED COASTAL STATE
JURISDICTION OVER LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES APPEARS
ASSURED.

E) WITH RESPECT TO THE DEEP SEABEDS, THE FIRST STEPS HAVE
BEEN TAKEN INTO REAL NEGOTIATION OF THE BASIC QUESTIONS OF THE
SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION AND THE CONDITIONS OF EXPLOITATION.

F) TRADITIONAL REGIONAL AND POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS OF STATES
ARE BEING REPLACED BY INFORMAL GROUPS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS
BASED ON SIMILARITIES OF INTEREST ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE.
THIS HAS GREATLY FACILITATED RATIONALIZATION OF ISSUES, AND
IS NECESSARY FOR FINDING EFFECTIVE ACCOMMODATIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 08392 02 OF 02 282048Z

63

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIEP-03 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-14 RSC-01 OIC-04 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 FEA-02 CG-00

DOT-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

AECE-00 DRC-01 /280 W

----- 087150

O 281929Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5594
INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 801
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 8392

FROM US DEL LOS

FOR IPS AND IBS

FOR D/LOS AND S/P JOHN KING

G) THE NUMBER AND TEMPO OF PRIVATE MEETINGS HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, AND MOVED BEYOND FORMAL POSITIONS. THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION.

WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE CONFERENCE PAPERS NOW MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT THE STRUCTURE AND GENERAL CONTENT OF THE TREATY WILL BE. THE ALTERNATIVES TO CHOOSE FROM, AND THE BLANKS TO BE FILLED IN, AND EVEN THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO DIFFERENT ISSUES, ARE ALL KNOWN.

WHAT WAS MISSING IN CARACAS WAS THE POLITICAL WILL TO NEGOTIATE AND THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS WAS THE CONVICTION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 08392 02 OF 02 282048Z

THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE LAST SESSION. THE NEXT STEP, AS I SAID IN MY PLENARY SPEECH, IS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE THE POLITICAL DECISIONS NECESSARY TO RESOLVE A SMALL NUMBER OF CRITICAL ISSUES. IN SHORT, WE MUST NOW MOVE FROM THE TECHNICAL DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING STAGE AT THIS SESSION WHICH HAS LAID BARE BOTH THE OUTLINES OF AGREEMENT AND THE DETAILS OF DISAGREEMENT, TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH MAKES COMPROMISE POSSIBLE.

EACH STATE HERE DEPENDING UPON ITS SITUATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAS A DIFFERENT IDEA OF THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF DIFFERENT ISSUES, AND HOW THE BLANKS SHOULD BE FILLED IN. THE UNITED STATES AND SOME OTHERS HAVE STATED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE UNIMPEDED PASSAGE OF STRAITS, AND THE GENERAL RIGHTS OF NAVIGATION IN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES WHICH TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD HAVE A VITAL INTEREST. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AS TO THE BALANCE OF COASTAL STATE RIGHTS AND DUTIES WITHIN AN ECONOMIC ZONE. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AS TO HOW THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION WITHIN THE ZONE SHOULD BE HANDLED, AND HOW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAN BE CONDUCTED IN A FASHION THAT WILL NOT HINDER RESEARCH BUT WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE THE INTERESTS OF STATES IN ACTIVITIES NEAR THEIR COASTS. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES AS TO HOW AND BY WHOM THE DEEP SEABED SHOULD BE EXPLOITED.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE, I BELIEVE IS TO LAY ALL THESE

PROBLEMS ON THE TABLE IN THE FORM OF CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE
TREATY TEXTS SO THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS CAN
GO HOME AND PROVIDE THEIR GOVERNMENTS WITH THE INFORMATION AND
THE ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL PERMIT THEM TO DECIDE WHAT ACCOMMO-
DATIONS WILL BEST SERVE OUR COMMON PURPOSE. MY DELEGATION
EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN GENEVA WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON ALL THE
REMAINING TROUBLESOME ASPECTS OF THIS TREATY IN THE HOPE
AND IN THE SPIRIT THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS WILL BE
PREPARED TO DO LIKEWISE.

I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE NECESSARY DECISIONS
WILL BE MADE, AND THAT MOST STATES WILL COME TO GENEVA READY
TO CONCLUDE A TREATY. FACTUAL ASSESSMENTS CAN BE MADE BY
COMPUTERS. JUDGMENTS OF THE FUTURE, INFORMED JUDGMENTS ON
THE BEST COURSE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE WORLD,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 08392 02 OF 02 282048Z

MUST BE MADE BY MEN AND GOVERNMENTS, IN GOOD FAITH AND
A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS I THINK DEMONSTRATED THAT GOOD
FAITH AND THE WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF
OTHERS. THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE BUT I LOOK FORWARD
TO RETURNING TO THIS HOSPITABLE CITY TO SIGN THE TREATY OF
CARACAS NEXT YEAR. END QUOTE.
STEVENSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, MEETING REPORTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA08392
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740238-0665
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740812/aaaaakbd.tel
Line Count: 253
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR STEVENSON AUGUST 28.
TAGS: PLOS, US, CARACAS, (STEVENSON, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005